

Appl. No. 10/694,641
Amdt. dated June 14, 2005
Preliminary Amendment

PATENT

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

I. Status of the Claims

Claims 1-13 have been canceled. New claims 14-29 are pending.

II. The Present Amendment

No new matter has been added by the present amendments.

The amendments to the specification correct the text to delete a conversion artifact introduced into various places in the text by the word processing program. The text of application 09/721,261 (the "'261 application"), filed November 21, 2000, to which the present application claims priority, is blank at the places corrected. Applicants believe that persons of skill will recognize that most of the spaces which were left blank in the original conversion process were those at which the Greek letter mu ("μ") was intended to appear.

The amendments to the claims likewise do not introduce new matter. New claim 14 is supported throughout the specification, including page 17, lines 13-15.

New claims 15-18 are supported throughout the specification, including claims 2-5 as originally filed in the '261 application.

New claims 19 and 20 are supported throughout the specification, including page 14, paragraph 0009, and Table 2.

New claim 21 is supported throughout the specification, including page 20, paragraph 0029.

New claims 22 and 23 are supported throughout the specification, including claims 7 and 8 of the '261 application as originally filed.

New claim 24 is supported throughout the specification, including claim 1 of the '261 application as originally filed.

New claim 25 is supported by, for example, Carretero and Oparil, Circulation 101:329-335 (2000) ("Carretero I") at page 329, right column. Carretero I is cited in the specification at page 1, line 31. It is incorporated by reference at page 35, paragraph 0079, and thus is, and always has been, part of the teachings of the present specification. A copy of

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Carretero I is being provided under cover of a Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement ("SIDS"), which is being filed separately.

New claims 26-28 are likewise supported by Carretero I. Claim 26 is supported, for example, by page 329 left and right columns, while claim 27 is supported, for example, by page 329, right column and claim 28 is supported by page 329, left column.

New claim 29 is supported by, for example, Carretero and Oparil, Circulation 101:446-453 (2000) ("Carretero II") at page 450, left column. Carretero II is cited in the specification at page 1, lines 31-32. It is incorporated by reference at page 35, paragraph 0079, and thus is, and always has been, part of the teachings of the present specification. A copy of Carretero II is being submitted under cover of the SIDS which is being filed separately.

III. Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement

Applicants respectfully call the Examiner's attention to the Supplementary Information Disclosure Statement being submitted under separate cover.

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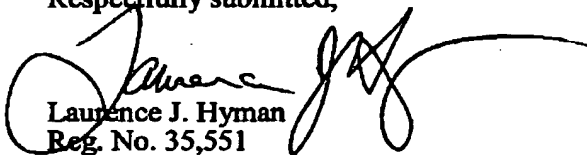
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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 415-576-0200.

Respectfully submitted,


Laurence J. Hyman
Reg. No. 35,551

TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and CREW LLP
Two Embarcadero Center, Eighth Floor
San Francisco, California 94111-3834
Tel: 415-576-0200
Fax: 415-576-0300

Enclosures: Carretero I and II
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